

This is the reconstructed Bent's Old Fort. The students may notice that the fort is a similar color to the soil. It is made out of adobe, mud bricks. Though it was never under attack, it was built for defense.

The students may notice the logs on the right side. This is the first part of the fort to be built. The students may notice the grass and no mountains. This fort is located in the grasslands of Colorado. Men would send out parties to gather wood, the pile to the left would be a place to keep the wood and the people inside the fort can bring more in when needed. The trees were farther away than what can be seen in the picture.





These people are demonstrating adobe brick making. They are dressed in period clothing. They would be Mexican Laborers. The whole Mexican Laborer family would help with the adobe work. A knife is seen being carried in the right side of the lower picture. The women are wearing dresses. If they are not barefoot, they may have worn moccasins made by the Indians. Metal pails are used to carry water.



Most workers did not make food in the kitchen or eat in the dining room. Notice the clothing and the way food could be cooked. Metal tins could hold liquid or be used for other purposes. She is probably cooking a deer leg and chicken.

Heat water in a pail to use for shaving. They are outside of the fort, probably for room and easy cleaning. This is old fashioned shaving.





This man represents a Mountain Man or Fur Trapper. One horse is packed with all his belongings.



A cook at Bent's Fort. A reflector oven near the fire. Dutch ovens with coals above and below to evenly back whats inside. The kitchen hearth is original to the fort. Garlic is above, used in cooking and medicine. Different utensils hang above the fireplace. A trivet to the bottom right. Cooking is women's job, and only one case of a white cook.

Mountain men may be any race. There is one famous black trader recorded in history. Research Jim Beckwourth. These men may have hunted and made their own clothing from deer and buffalo.





There is only one record of a white female worker at Bent's Fort. There were mixed race women, half indian, and half-Mexican. This woman is doing the laundry. She is wearing a Chamise, which is white. She wears a skirt over her chamise. She can use the chamise as a night robe. Many women cannot afford too many articles of clothing. She may only have one or two chamise. She would wash the one she is wearing by just taking it off, washing it, and putting it back on. This may bring up the subject of bathing in which we know little about, but who records in a journal each time they take a bath?

Goat milk could be used to make cheese or butter.



The trader and the Indian are using Indian Sign Language to communicate. Even though the different Native American tribes had different languages, the plains Indians shared a common sign language. You may notice the different beads the Indian is wearing. These beads were traded. They were valuable to the Indians.



The dining room was only used by the owners and their guests. Women would be serving the men.



One of the fur storage rooms at the fort. Different furs you can see in this picture include beaver, weasel and fox. The floor has a round piece, that is where grain was stored.







The flag has 27 stars to represent the year 1846. There are two sets of doors at the entrance. If hostile Indians came to trade at the fort, the men at the fort could close the inner doors, and trade through a window. This would allow trade without the fear of an attack.





Painting by Lieutenant Abert in 1846- This is an Indian scalp dance in the plaza of Bent's Old Fort. The fur press is used to press about 10 Buffalo Robes to package for trade in Missouri.

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LIEUTENANT ABERT'S SKETCH OF BENT'S FORT

Painting
by
Lieutenant
Abert in
1840s



Paitining by Lieutenant Abert in 1840s. This is inside the council room at Bent's Fort. Indians were trading.

